

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Assistant Deputy Minister

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et des Soins de longue durée**

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Dear Dental Hygienists:

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program effective October 1, 2010. The Healthy Smiles Ontario Program is an Ontario government-funded basic dental program providing preventive and early treatment services for children and youth ages 17 and under of low-income families. This program is administered by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the 36 public health units across the province, in partnership with oral health care providers and a range of community partners.

Eligibility for this program will be assessed by local public health units. Eligible children will be issued a Healthy Smiles Ontario Client Card (Client Card) which must be presented to the dental provider at each visit in order to obtain services under the program. Enclosed please find a copy of the Client Card.

Enclosed please also find a copy of the Healthy Smiles Ontario Schedule of Dental Services and Fees (Non-Dentist Providers) and attached to this letter, a Question & Answer document outlining important program information including eligibility and claims processing. Please note that there is no pre-determination as part of the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program. If you have questions about this program, please contact your local public health unit. A listing of health units can be found at www.ontario.ca/healthysmiles. We will continue to work with the ODHA to make this program simple to integrate into your existing office routine.

I would like to express the ministry's appreciation for the advice provided by the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association, in the development of the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program. On behalf of the ministry, I would also like to thank all Ontario dental hygienists for their participation in the government's various programs, including the new Healthy Smiles Ontario Program. Dental hygienists across the province play an important role in contributing to the health of Ontarians. Your ongoing commitment and contribution in providing care to Ontarians through government programs and related fee schedules is most appreciated.

Yours truly,

Allison J. Stuart
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Health Division